DENDROBATES WAGLER, 1830 (AMPHIBIA: ANURA): PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1930

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Wagler (1830) included three species in his genus *Dendrobates*, *Hyla nigerrima* Spix, 1824 (: 36), *Calamita tinctoria* Schneider, 1799 (: 175), and *Hyla trivittata* Spix, 1824 (: 35), but did not designate one of them as the type-species. Fitzinger (1843 : 32) designated *Hyla nigerrima* as the type-species.

The type-specimens of *H. nigerrima* and *H. trivittata* were apparently destroyed at Munich during World War II. *H. trivittata* is clearly identifiable from Spix's plate 9, and is a well-known Amazonian species. Spix's illustration of *H. nigerrima* (plate 9) is extremely poor, but according to Peters (1872 : 213), who saw the type-specimens, *H. nigerrima* agreed with, and is conspecific with *H. trivittata*.

The name *Dendrobates* has traditionally been applied to toothless dendrobatid frogs, and the name *Phyllobates* (type: *Phyllobates bicolor* Bibron in Sagra, 1841: pl. 29 bis) to some or all of the toothed dendrobatid frogs (Savage 1968).

In the light of present morphological and chromosomal evidence, it is clear that *Dendrobates trivittatus*(Spix), though it lacks teeth, is more closely related to the toothed brightly-colored dendrobatid frogs than to the other toothless dendrobatids.

Strict adherence to the rules of nomenclature would result in changing the name of those frogs presently called *Phyllobates* to *Dendrobates*, and inventing a new generic name for those frogs presently called *Dendrobates*. The extensive literature (partial list: Posada Arango (1909); Phisalix (1922); Wassén (1934); Santesson (1935); Mezey (1947); Wassén (1957); Märki and Witkop (1963); Witkop (1965); Daly, Witkop, Bommer, and Biemann (1965); Daly and Witkop (1966); Daly and Myers (1967); Tokuyama, Daly, Witkop, Karle, and Karle (1968); Karle and Karle (1969); Warnick (1969); Tokuyama, Daly and Witkop (1969)) on the poisonous properties of *Dendrobates* and *Phyllobates* uses these names in the traditional sense. Transferring the name *Dendrobates* to those frogs now called *Phyllobates* would not only confuse herpetologists, but would also cause confusion among physiologists and biochemists engaged in the study of the poisons of this group, and among anthropologists studying aboriginal use of the frogs.

In the interests of nomenclatural stability, it seems best to invalidate Fitzinger's (1843 : 32) designation of *Hyla nigerrima* Spix (= *Hyla trivittata* Spix) as the type-species of the genus *Dendrobates*, and to designate the second species included in Wagler's (1830 : 202) original concept of *Dendrobates*, namely *Calamita tinctoria* Schneider, 1799 (:175) as the type-species. Thus *Dendrobates trivittatus* (Spix), 1824 (: 35) (along with two other species which are morphologically *Phyllobates*, *Dendrobates pictus* (Bibron in Tschudi), 1838

(: 71) and *Dendrobates parvulus* Boulenger, 1882 (: 145)) becomes *Phyllobates trivittatus* (Spix), 1824, and the generic names of only three species change, instead of thirty-two species.

I therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to take the following actions:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress all designations of type-species for the genus *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830 (: 202), made prior to the Ruling now requested and having done so to designate *Calamita tinctoria* Schneider, 1799 (: 175) as the type-species of the genus *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830;

(2) to place the generic name *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830 (: 202), (gender: masculine), type-species by designation under the plenary powers *Calamita tinctoria* Schneider, 1799 (: 175), on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) to place the generic name *Phyllobates* Bibron *in* Sagra, 1841 (: pl. 29 bis), (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Phyllobates bicolor* Bibron *in* Sagra, 1841 (: pl. 29 bis), on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(4) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

  (a) *tinctoria* Schneider, 1799, as published in the binomen *Calamita tinctoria* (type-species of *Dendrobates* Wagler, 1830);

  (b) *bicolor* Bibron, 1841, as published in the binomen *Phyllobates bicolor* (type-species of *Phyllobates* Bibron, 1841).

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